

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 6, 2013

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: T&ES STAFF

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 7 - STAFF UPDATES

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various ongoing projects

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the staff update.

A. CRYSTAL CITY / POTOMAC YARD (ROUTE 1) TRANSITWAY

The City received a TIGER grant for the Crystal City/Potomac Yard Transitway totaling \$8.5 million. The grant was allocated to the design/build of the Route 1 Transitway between Monroe Avenue and Potomac Avenue in dedicated lanes. Five other grants have been received to aid in the design/construction of various elements within the Transitway project. The total cost of the Transitway including vehicles is approximately \$20 million.

Construction began in July 2012 on the Transitway and is anticipated to be completed in December 2013. Heavy and hazardous materials have been found on-site during excavation. The contractor is working with the City to dispose of them materials correctly.

In the first three weeks of March, work will be dependent on the weather, but continued construction is anticipated on the widening of Route 1 between Potomac Avenue and Howell Avenue. Further widening of Route 1 is necessary to allow for sufficient area in the median to construct two stations on the north side of Potomac Avenue. The left turn lane from Southbound Route 1 to Eastbound Potomac Avenue has been removed from service.

In addition, the installation of storm structures will be placed in the area between Potomac Avenue and Swann Avenue and the roadway sub-base will be placed. The first concrete pour of the Transitway may occur in March (previously reported as late February but has been delayed due to weather).

On February 12, 2013, City Council authorized the City's Purchasing Agent to approve change orders up to a total of \$13 million for the design and construction of the Transitway and stations.

B. POTOMAC YARD METRORAIL STATION

The Potomac Yard Metro project is an infill Metrorail station located between the National

Airport and Braddock Road Metrorail stations on the Blue and Yellow lines in the vicinity of the Potomac Yard Development.

The development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project is currently underway. The project team is advancing the socioeconomic, environmental, and transportation impact assessments for the no build and three build alternatives. The DEIS is due for public release in Spring 2013; a Record of Decision is anticipated in early 2014.

The Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Working Group (PYMIG) met on January 30, 2013 to present the remaining impacts of the three build alternatives. The next meeting of PYMIG is scheduled for April 17, 2013 from 6:30-8:30 in the Council Workroom in City Hall.

C. FISCAL YEAR 14 PROPOSED BUDGET

At its February 26, 2013 Legislative Meeting, the City Manager presented his proposed FY 14 budget to the City Council for consideration. Of note in the proposed budget:

- A total investment of **\$539.8 million in transportation and transit infrastructure**. The total includes \$272.8 million in FY 2014-2016 for the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, and \$56.6 million from the Transportation Improvement Fund (TIP) for expanded transportation and transit infrastructure.

General Fund Changes

- WMATA operating subsidy increase to base and new Bus Rapid Transit operating needs; (no fare increase)
- DASH operating subsidy increased due to base and service expansion operating needs
- Cancel implementation of the Arandria/Del Ray Shuttle
- Increase King Street Trolley headways from 15 minutes to 20 minutes

Capital Investments in FY 2014

- Street Paving
- WMATA Capital Investments
- DASH Fleet Replacements
- Bus Shelter Upgrades including improved ADA accessibility

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- DASH Fleet and Route Expansion
- Continued implementation of Capital Bikeshare
- Update to Bicycle Master Plan
- Bus Rapid Transit

The presentation from the February 26 meeting is available online at [FY 14 Budget Presentation](#).

A public hearing on the proposed FY 14 Budget will be scheduled for the April 3, 2013 meeting of the Transportation Commission.